



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

### LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES April 3, 2008

#### **Council Members, Liaisons & Committee Participants Present**

Sharon McKinley (Chair), Kati Bates, Bill Engler, George Evanoff, Paul Herrmann, Marilyn Johnson, Bernadine Hoffman, Doyle Meredith, Bernadette Polley, Karla Averill, Victoria Collins, Gregg Kiely, Greta Mang

#### **Council Members Not Present**

Joyce Finkelstein

#### **Council Staff Present**

Melanie Starns, Cathy De Lisa, Dan Plumhoff, Elsa Gaynor

#### **Guests Present**

Mr. Michael Howell, Founder & CEO of Reachout Healthcare America, Mr. Jim Robinson, Reachout Healthcare America, Mr. Doug Snyder

#### **Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Sharon McKinley called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the March 6, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

*Bernadette Polley made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Bill Engler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Updates**

##### ***Bills and Action on Key Items***

Deputy Executive Director Cathy De Lisa provided a brief overview of bills moving forward on the "full" list of legislation being tracked by the Council through the Legislation Online Arizona (LOLA) service. Additionally, Ms. De Lisa distributed copies of the Council's letter of support that was submitted to sponsors of HB2506. The letter was one of the action items from the March 7, 2008 Council meeting in which a motion unanimously passed to draft that letter to express the Council's support for the concept of strong protections and full disclosure for reverse mortgage loans contained within HB2506. Ms. De Lisa informed the Council that HB2506 continues to be "held" by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. Copies of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's "Short and Full" list of bills being tracked from the Arizona Capitol Times dated April 3, 2008, HB2506, which proposes regulations for the establishment of reverse mortgage loans, as well as the Council's letter on HB2506 are available through the Council Office.

### ***Budget Update***

Executive Director Melanie Starns stated that Governor Napolitano is working with legislative leadership and negotiating diligently to resolve the FY08 and FY09 budget shortfalls, and that no announcements have been made by either side as of yet. Ms. Starns reiterated that both sides are heavily engaged in the process, and she stated that she will share any additional information with the Committee as it becomes available.

### **Dental Care Presentation**

Mr. Michael Howell, Founder and CEO of Reachout Healthcare America provided an overview of his organization's mission to "serve the underserved," through providing low-cost solutions for the delivery of innovative dental care to vulnerable populations. Specifically, Mr. Howell's organization is a "public-private, for-profit organization," which provides basic prophylactic dental care to seniors, children and military service members throughout thirty states.

Additionally, Mr. Howell noted that Reachout Healthcare America is comprised of over 2000 contracted dental professionals who are dispatched as needed (Reachout Healthcare America does not provide services directly), and they utilize portable technology and web-based digital e-records to deliver accessible and affordable care at an estimated 50 to 75% below market costs to patients both in their homes and in local community based centers. Mr. Howell further noted that the mobile dental units cost an estimated \$50,000 for portable set-up (\$2,800 dollars a day to run such a clinic), and require as little as 180 square feet of open space to operate the "self-contained equipment." When asked about the feasibility of offering such services to community based seniors, Mr. Howell stated that the cost of such a program will be dependent on the level of care that is offered. He indicated he would ask his staff to determine the cost. With that cost in mind, Mr. Howell stated the next step would be to secure the funding to establish a pilot program through grants, and base costs to the senior on a sliding fee schedule. A question and answer period followed. A copy of Mr. Howell's presentational handout is available through the Council Office.

### **Committee Review of Dental Care Resources**

The Committee considered past dental presentations delivered at previous Committee meetings, and a discussion ensued. Additionally, Ms. De Lisa will investigate suggestions and invite an additional dental care presenter for the July 10, 2008 Committee meeting, as available. All committee members are urged to attend the Arizona Rides Community Transit Model session during the 2008 Governor's Conference on Aging in order to gain additional information for the Committee's focus on transportation issues.

### **Other Updates, New Business, & Announcements**

There were no updates, new business or announcements.

### **Action Items**

- Ms. De Lisa will research and identify an additional dental care presenter, as available for the July 10, 2008 Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee.
- Legislative Policy and Coordinating Committee members will attend the Arizona Rides Community Transit Model session at the 2008 Governor's Conference on Aging, in order to utilize that session as an additional presentation on the issue of transportation, to be discussed at the July 10, 2008 Committee meeting..

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Sharon McKinley at 11:11 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee meeting will be July 10, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the State Executive Tower, Grand Canyon Conference Room (Basement). These meetings are open to the public.